

Environmental Commission Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 15, 2007

7:00 p.m.

City Hall – McCloskey Room

401 N. Morton Street

Attending: Heather Reynolds, Kelly Boatman, Mike Tosick, Jacqui Bauer, Tom McGlasson, Isabel Piedmont, Mark Lemon, Laura Trout

Absent: Kriste Lindberg, Mike Litwin, Phaedra Pezzullo

Chair Heather Reynolds called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

I. Announcements

- a. Next Environmental Commission meeting: Thursday, December 13 at 7:00 p.m.
- b. Next Planning Committee meetings: Wednesday, November 21 and Friday, December 21 at 4:00 p.m.
- c. Next Education Committee meeting: Monday, November 19 at 5:15 p.m. in the Indiana Room, Monroe County Library

II. Approval of Minutes

- a. General feedback that new format of notes is good. Minor errors were corrected.
 - i. Kelly Boatman motioned to approve with edits
 - ii. Mike Tosick seconded
 - iii. Approved unanimously

III. Public Comment

- a. Matt Smethurst - City Engineering
 - i. Several permits have been issued concerning erosion control prevention. Everything seems to be in order; we are working on and monitoring it.
 - ii. Question was raised about the creek bed along Country Club Road holding water and whether it was intentional. Matt replied that yes, this had always been the intention.

IV. Staff Reports

- a. Mark Lemon – Almost all data has been collected for Cost of Growth in Bloomington report. The report will be circulated to the EC on December 6, with a presentation of findings to occur at the next meeting on December 13. Report will include recommendations of where project could potentially go to address growth in the city.
- b. Jacob Mazer (Heather Reynolds reporting for) – Developing a new biking webpage for the Bloomington Environmental Quality Indicators report. This was a project started by Alex Shroyer.

V. Committee Reports

- a. Environmental Commission/Planning Commission – Jacqui Bauer
 - i. Morton Place – At the last Planning Commission meeting the use of native plants at the Morton Place site was addressed. Chris Sturbaum is supportive if it goes to the City Council.
 - ii. Southern Indiana Medical Park (SIMP) II – Kelly Boatman, Heather Reynolds, and Linda Thompson walked the site. EC wants to put a priority on retaining trees on the site. Proposed a shared parking lot with an adjacent building. The petitioner has said no, the building needs its own parking lot for easy patient access.
- b. Planning Department – Linda Thompson
 - i. Indigo Hotel – located at College and 3rd – There is no landscaping plan yet. Several potential recommendations were suggested to maintain green space at the facility, including multi-level parking, a green roof, and green areas in the parking lot.
 - ii. Ramsey Farm Development (last 10 acres of Renwick PUD) – Main priority is to keep the tree line. EC can make recommendations, but has no enforcement authority. The developers have been helpful and willing to take EC recommendations. Discussion centered on the parking lot, whether it should be pervious or impervious and promoting the aesthetic value to the development of green space in the parking lot.
- c. Green Building Committee – Discussion of proposals
 - i. Ordinance – Debate centered on the language of requirements of current and future buildings to meet LEED certification standards. Concerns were raised about the ability of existing buildings to meet these standards, and how strong or weak exemptions to meeting these standards should be. It was decided an exemption was needed, and some language about LEED standards should be clarified. Steve Ashkin, who has done work with LEED certifications in the past participated in the study. He offered further assistance and can be reached at steveashkin@ashkingroup.com
 - 1. Kelly Boatman: Motion to give authority to Green Building Committee to make final changes to the ordinance based on today's discussion, then circulate to EC for approval, then present to the City Council.
 - 2. Laura Trout seconded
 - 3. Approved unanimously
 - ii. Pamphlet – Feedback was positive, with a recommendation to take out brand names in the “what products to buy” section as to not cause favoritism of one particular brand or store over another.
 - iii. Webpage – Positive feedback.
 - iv. Isabel Piedmont – motion to accept and present the webpage and brochure
 - v. Mike Tosick – second

- vi. Pass unanimously
- d. Greenhouse Gas Reduction – Mike Tosick and Isabel Piedmont
 - i. Goal is to promote green meetings for the city to help develop a greenhouse gas reduction mindset. Also, will start having monthly meetings with Adam Wason.

VI. Commissioners Reports

- a. Jacqui Bauer – Burney Fisher from SPEA will be making a presentation at IU about Bloomington's street tree report
- b. Laura Trout – Person I met in my travels gives talks on energy resources. I will get more information on articles he has written. If it is of interest to the EC, I will attempt to invite him to speak in Bloomington in March or April 2008.
- c. Heather
 - i. Attempting to get information from Parks & Rec Department for the Greenspace Report.
 - ii. Opportunity for the EC to compete for funds for a community service project to commemorate MLK Day

VII. New Business

- a. Transportation and Greenspace Plan – EC feedback
 - i. Positive feedback on the plan. One potential issue might be avoiding nonselective herbicide before construction. Linda will turn in recommendations.
- b. Peak Oil Task Force – EC feedback
 - i. Add plan of action to the mission statement
 - ii. Want to have an EC member on the task force
- c. Nominating Committee for 2008 EC officers
 - i. Heather, Jacqui Bauer, Isabel Piedmont, and Mike Litwin will serve on the committee. They will make recommendations for 2008 EC Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. Committee appointments will also be refreshed.

VIII. Old Business

- a. CASSE
 - i. Video was viewed on population and economic growth ramifications.
 - ii. Further discussion was tabled until members with strong opinions on Steady State are in attendance

IX. Jacqui Bauer motioned to adjourn

X. Mike Tosick seconded

XI. Meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission
Minutes of the Meeting
March 22, 2007**

I. Introductions

Chair Heather Reynolds called meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Commission members present: Heather Reynolds, Isabel Piedmont, Phaedra Pezzullo, Jacqui Bauer, Mike Tosick, Don Moore, Laura Trout, Tom McGlasson

Staff and others present: Linda Thompson, Becky Barrick, Alex Shroyer, Joyce Williams, Steve Forrest

II. Minutes

February 2007 minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

January 2007 minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

Don Moore suggested we have less detail in future meeting minutes.

Phaedra Pezzullo has discussed with staff having the interns take minutes at future meetings. Beginning with the April meeting the interns will be responsible for taking minutes.

III. Public Comment

Steve Forrest expressed concerns with the project to widen the West 2nd Street corridor. He also discussed the Downtown parking study and the revised report from this study due in late March. Joyce Williams from the City of Bloomington Engineering Department asked if any Commission members had any issues for the Engineering Department to look at. Tom McGlasson expressed concerns about a property on South Rogers Street where landscaping work is occurring with no sediment or erosion control. Isabel Piedmont asked about a storm sewer on West Allen Street that is blocked causing flooding in the area.

IV. Reports

A. Staff Reports Alex Shroyer:

Finishing 3 month update for BEQI

Continuing to debug and edit BEQI website

Tracking press related to BEQI

Setting up links to other websites

Working on green space data to add

- discussion ensued as to whether this information belongs on the BEQI website or EC website.

Working with Green Building Committee on drafting green building ordinance. Will have updates for the green space, transportation, and possibly water, sections of the BEQI in 3 months

Phaedra Pezzullo discussed the Natural Landscaping brochure Becky Barrick has been working on. The brochure has turned into a five (5) single page fact sheets. The fact sheets are to be distributed during Earth Week.

Becky Barrick gave a Powerpoint presentation reviewing the five (5) Natural Landscaping Fact Sheets. She said she is trying to get on the Agenda for an upcoming City Council meeting to present on these. Discussion ensued on possible revisions for the fact sheets and tactics for presenting to the City Council.

B. Committee Reports

1. Executive Committee

Heather Reynolds discussed meetings she has had with City of Bloomington Planning Department personnel concerning the role of the Senior Environmental Planner position and ways to better define the positions duties.

2. Planning Committee

Heather Reynolds reported that this committee has a vacancy. She also reported on two (2) sites visits: The Village at 10th and College – this proposal is for the currently vacant lot at 10th Street and Morton Avenue; The Village at Basswood – developer has proposed to build a road across a sinkhole, a memo was provided to the Board of Zoning Appeals recommending this be denied. The site visit to Ivy Chase has been postponed.

Linda Thompson reported on the following projects due at the next Plan Commission meeting:

The Village at 10th and College – this project has been turned down before, developer has refilled with minor changes.

The Village at Basswood – Some changes since last meeting, access road on North side has been rerouted around the edge of the sinkhole, bus stop removed, other minor changes

Ivy Chase – Some minor changes since last meeting, due to Plan Commission on April 9th.

3. BEQI Committee

Heather Reynolds reported that Isabel Piedmont presented to the City Council at their February meeting. It went well.

4. Green House Gas Reduction Committee

Nothing to Report

5. Green Building Committee

Heather reported that the committee was able to obtain a copy of the Ben Brabson lecture on DVD, and it is available for members to view.

Tom McGlasson reported on the Randall Arendt lecture he attended in Richmond, Indiana on March 21st. He found the lecture interesting and was impressed by Mr. Arendt. He recommends looking into the possibility of having Mr. Arendt come to Bloomington.

Mike Tosick reported that the committee will be meeting with Alex Shroyer before the April EC meeting to begin discussing drafting a green building ordinance. Heather Reynolds referred to an email from Isabel Piedmont concerning the possibility of touring the renovation of the old Von Lee theater, this is the first LEED certified project in Bloomington. There was unanimous interest in touring this if possible. There is a public tour scheduled for late April.

6. Education Committee

Phaedra Pezzullo reported she has meetings scheduled with a number of groups providing environmental education to work on collaborative efforts. She reviewed some of the planned highlights for Step-It-Up on April 14th and encouraged everyone to attend. The EC will have a table at the Earth Day event on the IU campus, the interns will work the table, EC members welcome to stop by. The EC has the opportunity to co-sponsor Eben Fodor who is speaking at the Monroe County Library in conjunction with Earth Day. Isabel Piedmont moved approval of \$150.00 to co-sponsor, Phaedra Pezzullo seconded, the vote was unanimous for approval.

Mike Tosick reported that the Tree Commission has organized a tree planting event at 6th Street and Lincoln Street on April 14th to replace trees that were removed.

Phaedra Pezzullo said she has been working with numerous organizations regarding environmental education in public schools. Things are moving forward and she anticipates seeing more environmental related curricula.

C. Commissioner Reports

Heather Reynolds attended the BCOS meeting, the BCOS would like to see the EC/BCOS committee focus on planning

Mike Tosick reported that April 27th is Arbor Day, there is a program in the works for the Benneker Center. No response from the Mayors office on the tree ordinance.

Bloomington declared a "Tree City" for the 23rd consecutive year. Information brochures for the Emerald Ash Borer are available.

Isabel Piedmont reported that the West 2nd Street corridor study is on hold indefinitely.

Phaedra Pezulla reminded members that the caving film screening previously mentioned by Kriste Lindberg is March 23rd.

V. Old Business

There is no old business to discuss

VI. New Business

Heather Reynolds reported that Councilman Rollo has said that City Council is getting numerous complaints about "boom" cars. Discussion ensued regarding that EC's role on this issue, and the ability to draft an ordinance.

Linda Thompson reported that the EC needs to start preparing a budget for 2008 to submit. Tom Micuda has to submit a preliminary budget on March 27th. Linda Thompson distributed a draft budget request worksheet. Discussion ensued concerning the 2008 budget.

Jacqui Bauer moved to extend the meeting by five (5) minutes, Tom McGlasson seconded, the vote was unanimous for approval.

Laura Trout moved to increase budget line item 317, Consultants and Workshops, to \$800.00, Don Moore seconded, the vote was unanimous for approval.

Heather Reynolds said the 2007 calendar has been updated and will be distributed.

Jacqui Bauer moved to adjourn, Mike Tosick seconded, the vote was unanimous for approval.

Meeting adjourned.

**City of Bloomington
Environmental Commission**

**Minutes of the Meeting
February 15, 2007**

1. Introductions

Chair Heather Reynolds began the meeting.

Commission members present: Jacqui Bauer, Kelly Boatman, Kriste Lindberg, Mike Litwin, Tom McGlasson, Don Moore, Isabel Piedmont, Phaedra Pezzullo, Heather Reynolds, Laura Trout

Staff and others present: Linda Thompson, Becky Barrick, Alex Shroyer, Mike Steinhoff, Steve Peters, Jacob Lee

2. Approval of minutes

Piedmont and Thompson pointed out several corrections to be made. The minutes were tabled until the March meeting to be voted on as corrected.

3. Public comment

None.

4. Guest Presentation

Steve Peters of Bynum Fanyo Associates provided a presentation on the Village at Basswood Park (Ooley property) residential development proposal, which is one of the petitions on the March Plan Commission agenda. The site contains 35 acres, of which approximately 48% will remain undisturbed under the development proposal for 248 apartment units in 3 story buildings. Steve discussed sinkholes, storm water detention, roads and parking. EC members asked questions regarding karst issues, green building design, availability of transit stops, and reduction in parking spaces. The area of greatest concern was the proposed northeast access road through what appeared to be a large sinkhole. The development site overlays the route of the future Basswood Drive extension on the Master Thoroughfare Plan, which will run east and north and eventually connect the entire area to Third Street and Johnson Avenue.

5. Reports

A. Staff Report

Becky is working on the landscaping fact sheets. She passed around copies of the second draft and requested comments. She also requested input from the commissioners concerning appropriate local plant nurseries.

Alex has been working with Linda Thompson on the BEQI 3-month update. CBU had some questions and issues regarding the Water section, and it was temporarily removed from the web site. Alex and Joe will meet with CBU to discuss it.

B. Planning Committee

Linda Thompson led discussion of the following development petitions.

Howard Young property on Snoddy Road: Continued until April Plan Commission meeting.

Dental building in Whitehall Plaza: No environmental issues.

Jill's House: Minor design changes. Possibly 5 more parking spaces but Planning Department staff suggested it could be land banked for the present and can use permeable pavers.

Ivy Chase: No changes at this time.

Village at Basswood Park (Ooley property): The discussion focused on the sinkhole in the northeast corner near the railroad. Disturbance will occur in the southeast corner for utility installation. The property to the south is owned by the Community Foundation; donation of a conservation easement is possible.

C. BEQI Committee: Heather Reynolds will give a presentation to the City Council.

D. Greenhouse Gas Reduction Committee: The Committee's work builds on Eric's report. Planned activities are development of a list of home and municipal GGR measures and a presentation to the Mayor.

E. Budget Committee: The Committee will attempt to make future budget items more consistent with actual spending by the EC. Phaedra Pezzullo discussed the intern budget.

F. Education Committee: Proposed activities include Earth Day and outreach for GGR measures.

G. Green Building Committee: The Committee will meet with Ben Brabson concerning green building issues. The EC will send a representative to the Randall Arendt workshop at Richmond.

H. Commissioners' Reports: Heather stated that there have been a lot of noise complaints recently. Kriste Lindberg reported that she had been contacted by radio station WGCL concerning possible EC input into their programming.

6. Old Business

A. EC goals for 2007

The only item discussed was coordination on intern projects.

B. Indiana recycling debate

Mike Litwin summarized his meeting with Melissa Kriegerfox concerning the potential administrative policy changes in Indiana that would subsidize waste-to-energy businesses at the expense of recycling subsidies. Melissa stated that there is nothing for the EC to do at this point, but to watch the web site and emails for notification of significant events which may require action.

There was a brief discussion of the City's new recycling policy of accepting plastics #3-7 at curbside pickup.

Meeting adjourned.